



Indiana Department of Education  
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS  
Dr. Tony Bennett, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Statehouse, Room 228  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

# NEWS

[www.doe.in.gov/news](http://www.doe.in.gov/news)

**Press Release**  
***For Immediate Release***  
Tuesday, March 30, 2010

**Media Contact:** Stephanie Sample  
(317) 232-6616  
[ssample@doe.in.gov](mailto:ssample@doe.in.gov)

## **Effective Reforms Focus on Teacher Quality and Accountability,** **NYC Schools Chief Says**

At today's meeting of Indiana's Education Roundtable, New York City (NYC) Schools Chancellor Joel Klein shared the city's strategy to improve student success and bridge the achievement gap. Klein's presentation highlighted the importance of teacher quality and strong accountability — reform objectives also central to Indiana's efforts to increase student achievement.

"In New York City, our education policies have focused squarely on putting children first," New York City Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein said. "Putting children first means attracting and retaining the best teachers, giving principals the flexibility and decision-making power to meet students' needs, and holding schools accountable for helping all students to learn and make progress. While much work remains, students across the city have achieved steady and significant gains over the past eight years, and today, our approach to school reform is widely recognized as a national model for improving education."

Klein described NYC Schools' two-phase model, in which reforms focused first on depoliticizing and building leadership and then on empowering schools while holding them accountable. The results of NYC Schools' changes were remarkable: 33 percent more students graduated high school; the city made larger academic gains than the rest of New York State; and nearly 50 percent more NYC students enrolled in colleges and universities.

Many of the reforms championed by Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett mirror changes made under the NYC Schools' strategy. Reforms common to both state's plans include improving teacher and leader preparation and professional development, ending social promotion, implementing an A-F rating to schools, and reducing burdensome regulations.

"Chancellor Klein's presence today should bring a fierce sense of urgency to Indiana's education stakeholders," Bennett said. "New York City's success — in particular its ongoing efforts to bridge the achievement gap — underscores the need for aggressive reforms that will bring competition and accountability to Indiana education."

To view Chancellor Klein's presentation to the Roundtable, visit [www.educationroundtable.in.gov](http://www.educationroundtable.in.gov).

Indiana's Education Roundtable is co-chaired by Gov. Mitch Daniels and Dr. Bennett. The Roundtable is a bipartisan group of key leaders from K-12 and higher education, business and community, and the Indiana General Assembly focused on improving educational opportunity and achievement for all Hoosier students.